

**PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING-FEBRUARY 8, 2022 at 6:00PM**

WORK SESSION:

The work session began at 6:00pm.

Mr. Ryncavage – Website update – Ms. Eroh has the updated design. By next meeting the design will be finalized. Website may be up by the next meeting

Had a meeting with WVV Director of Safety regarding the recent issues with cars passing buses and other problems. There is a company called Bus Patrol who installs cameras on the buses and the software automatically takes a picture of a vehicle passing a bus illegally. It then sends the picture to the Magistrate. It makes it impossible for anyone to fight it. The cameras are installed for free and maintained by the company for free. There is a revenue share between the school, the company and the municipality where it happened. The company contracts with the school but all 9 towns within WVV would participate. WVV really liked the idea. The system is still in the infancy stage but once the details are hammered out, he will sit with Council and the Mayor to hopefully join the mutual agreement. It has already been implemented at Crestwood.

Mr. Kobusky – Sounds like a great idea.

Mr. Morehart – Thanked Plymouth Police, State Police and all who were involved with the handling of the Mary Barrett murder case. Daniel Barrett has been sentenced to life in prison without a chance for parole.

Received the SPCA invoice and we will need to renegotiate the contract as this is the last year of the 5- year contract. We need to look at the cost per capita vs. the cost per animal.

Earl, Bill and Adam met with the COG. The contract is up for renewal in March at a cost of \$3500.00 per year per municipality. There was a block grant that was paying for this but it has expired. We did not use the paver last year so we will have 1<sup>st</sup> dibs on it this year. There is also a mini loader available.

Land bank – had a meeting with them and they collectively go after properties before they go up for tax sale. Liens would be forgiven. It is \$3000.00 to join, which includes admin fees, etc. Packets of information were handed out to council members.

Hometown Heroes – moving along. The sign-up sheet is done and a 501C is being set up. The design is being worked on and will share when completed.

Mr. Dixon – Question on the land bank and how it works.

Mr. Ryncavage – attended a land bank meeting in Pittston. Gave example of how it worked. The land bank buys a property for \$75,000. The payment goes right to the land bank, to buy more properties, but the borough would get 50% of the county taxes and would also get the local taxes.

Mr. Kobusky – will need to discuss further but it has to be soon. Sounds like it would work well. We have blighted properties in town that they would buy, tear down and pay any liens.

Mr. Thomas – Schullkill and Carbon County is participating and it is doing well there.

Mr. Cunningham – The virus numbers are down. The Planning Commission and other groups can start having their meetings at town hall again.

Ms. Eroh – The Plymouth Shawnee Indians will be holding sign up on 2/19, 2/27,3/5,3/6 and 3/19. There will be another one later in the year. Encouraged residents to bring their children or grandchildren and get involved. It is the last sports program in town.

The civil service exam was given on Saturday. Thanked Mr. John Frey for conducting the test.

Mr. Thomas – the power line for the Christmas lights at Academy and Main will need to be repaired at a cost of about \$1000.00. They will wait to hear from the insurance, from the accident that occurred, before proceeding.

Mr. Kobusky – discussed the wire and the pole issue at Academy and Main St.

Mr. Thomas - The library needs some work done. Will be checking into what is needed.

Mr. Dixon – Another reminder on the sewage system and the problems that are being created with flushable wipes. They are flushable but NOT biodegradable. They pack up and clog the sewers. The street dept has been out this week dealing with problems with the sewer lines. The money they cost to fix falls on the taxpayers. Once you are past the main it is the responsibility of the homeowner to fix the laterals.

Wanted to recognize John Thomas, who along with John Kovach and his son, has saved the town money. Jerry Lech has worked on vehicles that has saved us \$2700.00 this month and at previous other times about \$4000.00. These people help our town and thought he should be thanked.

Mr. Kobusky – His help is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Dixon – Rumors have been heard about our street department not doing their job. Took offense to that. These guys come out in nasty weather and while you are sleeping.

Major problem with sewers on Vine. Terra cotta pipes are breaking up. Discussed and explained the many issues. Feels that a manhole needs to be put in. Jarrid Shulla from the street department elaborated.

Mr. Kobusky – Things crop up in town, don't know when or how much they cost.

Mr. Dixon – Appreciates the street dept, the police, the council, the mayor and the secretaries for all they do. If he ever left, he would never speak ill. Addressed Lori B from #1 for her dedication and hard work.

Ms. Eroh – questioned if there is going to be a single hauler decision made. Problems continue and are growing with County Waste. The trucks either don't go up side streets or breakdown.

Mr. Kobusky – Urged to keep this in mind when the bidding process starts. Wants only one hauler, tired of seeing garbage on the streets because there are different days for pickup.

Mayor Coughlin – No one is tied to one hauler, problems change companies.

A lot of people are criticizing the tax raise but remember we are the only town that does not charge a sewer fee. No one wants to raise taxes but it is necessary at times.

Spoke with Sgt. Thomas re: the bus issue. There will be officers at bus stops, randomly. The police are very busy, 250 calls last month.

ATV's – Mayor Coughlin talked to other Mayors and together are trying to come up with a solution. Council received a letter of encouragement. Nice to get this, always sign your name so you can be thanked.

Spoke to an incident in town where a car was not being towed. On Facebook, the person said they called the mayor's office. The mayor states that he never received any calls regarding a car being towed. There is more to this issue than anyone on social media is aware of.

Spring clean-up is in the coming months. How many will show up to help clean up the town?

Mr. Kobusky – We will have the next \$300,000.00 coming in. We got the green light on what it can be used for. Let's start working on some ideas on how to use it. There is a time limit on when it has to be used. It cannot be used for certain things like shoring up the pension but can be used for projects. I would like to see the flooding issue on Beade St. corrected. There will be plenty left over to do other projects so let's start brainstorming.

Mayor Coughlin – suggested unmarked cruisers

Mr. Kobusky – There will be a special meeting next week. There are things coming up like the land bank decision and a couple other items that cannot wait for next month's meeting. If the results are back from the civil service exam, we could, possibly, take care of the police officer hiring.

Ms. Eroh – The test results are in-route from Chicago. The oral exam has to be given and then the results verified before it can be brought to council.

Mr. Kobusky – will touch base with Ms. Eroh on Friday to see where we are at with the process.

Mr. Morehart – advised that the Baby Jack Rescue is in need of litter and cat food.

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Work session concluded and the regular meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence followed.

The roll was called:

Council members present: Mr. Cunningham; Ms. Eroh; Mr. Morehart; Mr. Ryncavage; Mr. Thomas; Mr. Dixon and Mr. Kobusky.

\*There were no Citizens comments regarding agenda items.

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AGENDA VOTING:

Motion was made to reappoint Ms. Coleen Pall to the Planning Agency for a term of four years to expire December 31, 2025.

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Eroh

Motion passed with 7 YES votes

Motion was made to approve payment to Eckert Seamans Attorney at Law for services rendered involving a personnel matter.

Motion: Ms. Eroh

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Thomas

Motion passed with 7 YES votes

Motion was made to approve tax refund for 2021 property tax reassessment to Ms. Rochelle Letteer in the amount of \$61.03.

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Morehart

Motion passed with 7 YES votes

Motion was made to approve payment to S Krasavage Concrete Construction for repairs made to the Ransom Street sewer main in the amount of \$2,200.00.

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Cunningham

Motion passed with 7 YES votes

Motion made to accept the following council meeting minutes:

Special meeting: October 20, 2021

Regular meetings: September 14, 2021; November 9, 2021 & December 14, 2021

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Ryncavage

Motion passed with 7 YES votes

Motion to accept the January Fire & Police reports:

\*\*On the question: The mayor said the Fire Depts and the Police Depts are very busy.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Morehart

Motion passed with 7 YES votes

Motion made to pay the monthly bills:

General Fund: 22-073GF – 22-135GF

Liquid Fuels: 22-23LF – 22-039LF

Recreation Fund: 22-006RF – 22-009RF

Motion: Mr. Morehart

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Ryncavage

Motion passed with 7 YES votes

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cunningham

Respectfully submitted:



Gail Burdulis, Borough Secretary

Approved at regular meeting April 12, 2022